

## The Washington Times.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1904.

Robert E. Lee.

Today the Ninety-seventh Anniversary of His Birth.

Ninety-seven years ago today Robert Edward Lee, whose memory is yet cherished by millions of people in the land to which he gave his life, was born in Stratford, Westmoreland county, Va. While the Lees had been for generations men to be counted on in the public life of this country, no one could have predicted, in 1807, the career which this most famous of the sons of the house was to have. His is the distinction of having been the leader of a lost cause, the idol of a failing army, the hero of a land defeated under his leadership. Few men have received so great an honor.

It is easy to win honor on the winning side—sometimes. It is not difficult to bear the honors of a victor gracefully—if the victor is the right sort of man. But to stand for months, or for years, between one's followers and imminent defeat, to keep their confidence in the very moment of defeat, to retain their love through all the vicissitudes of reconstruction in a conquered country—this, indeed, is a proof of greatness.

Lee was not one of those Southern generals who threw themselves into the fight for the Confederacy with enthusiastic belief in ultimate success. He went into it deliberately, solemnly, after weighing all the consequences; he had no illusions and no disposition to be reckless. He was not one of those who believed that the war would be over in sixty days. He knew it would not, and his was the fight of patriotic devotion, not of daredevil rashness. The recognition of these facts, of these traits in his character, has led North and South alike to honor him.

## The Chances for Peace.

War Talk Diminishing in St. Petersburg, and Why.

The pacific utterances of Emperor Nicholas at the New Year reception on Thursday last already have borne fruit. Not only so. St. Petersburg dispatches inform us, has the volume of war talk in army and navy circles been diminished perceptibly by the Czar's remarks to the representatives of foreign powers, but even the newspapers most chauvinistic in tone only a few days ago are today either saying things commendatory of the improved prospects of peace or else preserving an eloquent silence. Great, indeed, is the power of the throne—in Russia.

While all danger of war is not absolutely averted, however, by the peaceful disposition of an autocrat, it is safe to assume nowadays that the chances in favor of a diplomatic settlement as against an appeal to arms, in case of a conflict of interests affecting two such nations as Japan and Russia, are almost nine out of ten. If there is any disposition to go to war in the present instance, it has certainly not been shown by Russia. She has, it strikes us, done a good deal of "bluffing," but we doubt whether she is prepared to fight; and no one must know this better than she. Even her enormous resources might prove unavailable at a distance such as that which would separate her army in a theater of war in the Far East from its base, with no communication by water and only a slender thread of railroad to depend on for bringing up supplies and re-enforcements.

Japan, on the other hand, is credited with a desire to bring the question to a head. She thinks she has a better chance to win now than later on, when Russia has fully developed her resources in the East. Possibly there is something in this, from a Japanese point of view; but it does not appeal to the civilized world. It does not appeal to England, for England would morally be bound to furnish Japan with money to carry on the war. It does not appeal to France, for France would probably be compelled to give her support to Russia in the minute England took a hand in the quarrel. It does not appeal to Germany, for Germany could not afford to jeopardize her present prestige and position in the Far East by siding with either one or the other

party in a quarrel, the outcome of which seems so uncertain. And it does not appeal to this country, for our interests are solely and simply those of maintaining the "open door" in Manchuria. As to who sits there, so long as order is maintained and trade is free, it should be a matter of supreme indifference to us. We may indulge in the luxury of extending our sympathy to the "little fellow," the under dog, but to do more would be folly. It is not to be thought of.

Granted, then, that Japan wishes to fight, and fight now—we feel sure that the great powers will not permit her. The consequences of such a step on her part might involve the whole civilized world, and no one knows this better than the statesmen who guide the destinies of Europe. Except for unforeseen circumstances, beyond the control of those in authority, we think that the chances are nine out of ten that peace will be preserved.

## Moonshine Whisky.

The Difficulties of Stopping the Traffic.

An old revenue officer is quoted as saying that he does not believe that the making of "moonshine" whisky will ever be entirely suppressed. He gives as a reason the enormous profits which accrue from the traffic. One gallon of cheap molasses, 30 cents; two bushels of meal, \$1.30; water, 0—these are the materials. This combination makes forty gallons of whisky, which can be sold for \$2 a gallon.

It is doubtful, however, whether the money profit is responsible for the incorrigible lawbreaking of the mountaineers who make this whisky. Of course the money is a temptation to a man whose estate consists of a log cabin, a patch of attenuated corn climbing up a side hill, some tobacco, a cow, and a few consumptive-looking hogs, but the real trouble goes deeper than love of gain. These mountaineers do not understand why the Government should persistently hunt them down for making their own corn yield the largest price it can be made to yield. They are tenacious of all the customs of their fathers, and their fathers made whisky in America as the farmer of old England made ale, or the peasant of southern France makes wine—for their own benefit, not for that of the government. They are hardy and independent folk, these mountain Americans, of Scotch Irish stock for the most part, and they will fight as readily for what they conceive to be their rights as any people on earth.

The real remedy for the moonshine business is not so much revenue hunters as education and modern civilization. Where schools have been established the people have been eager for them, and where towns have grown up the people readily learn to do all kinds of productive work. The coal mines of the Cumberland, the summer hotels of the French Broad River, the more recent movement toward arts and crafts handwork, which is said to be under way among people who have not yet forgotten how to spin, weave, and make rush-bottomed chairs—these will do more than the force of the law toward the abolition of the stills.

## Snow-Cleaning.

Philadelphia Citizens Shirk Their Civic Duty.

Several thousand persons in Philadelphia have been summoned to the police courts to show cause why they did not clean the snow off their sidewalks. Some of them did show cause. They said that one recent snowfall came on Saturday night, leaving the streets covered with snow on Sunday morning, and work on Sunday not being legal in Philadelphia, they had to leave it where it was till Monday. It was further proved that the ordinance called only for the cleaning off of snow, not of ice, so that if the snow turned into ice it was out of the jurisdiction of the shovellers.

This, together with the experience of Washington under similar conditions, proves anew the necessity of having snow cleaning done as street cleaning is done, by the municipal government, and moreover, the necessity of having it done well. Where is the sense of cleaning the middle of the road before a man's door and making him clean the section of sidewalk himself? Where is the sense of leaving all the sidewalk uncleared by private property owners, a menace to the public, so that the streets present the appearance of a checker board, here a patch of snow and there a patch of asphalt? However beautiful the snow may be in the country, it is not beautiful in a city far enough south to have no sleighing weather. It should be cleaned off, and that with speed.

Such work as this cannot be done satisfactorily by private persons. There are always some who are lazy, and some who are careless, and some who find it cheaper to pay the fine

than to have the work done. It should be done by the city, for the good of the public, and charged up to those who pay the taxes.

## The Reform of Habits.

Advice Given on the Subject Free and Unheeded.

Somebody has been discoursing on the evils of reading in bed. This person says that it is not harmful to read in bed if one packs the pillows so as to read in a sitting position—a work manifestly difficult to those who reside in boarding houses and have to depend on the attenuated pillow of commerce. But if the reading is done while the reader lies flat on his back, it is bad for the eyes.

This discourse arouses wonder whether such advice ever causes any particular results, whether, if a habit has been formed, it will be abandoned on any such general sermonizing. All mothers know that the more they talk to a child about some irritating trick of manner, the more the child seems inclined to persist in that trick, and all good wives know that there were habits acquired by their husbands, which they vowed on all the Laves and Penates of the household to eradicate, and have not yet caused them to abandon. Habit is, according to the Latin derivation, the thing which has you. Some scholars say it is the thing which you have, but experience proves the contrary.

The real good which such sermons do is that they enable a great many persons who are not possessed of the habit to point triumphantly to the article as a proof of what they have always told some guilty relative. "Now, I always said you would ruin your eyes reading in bed, John Henry, and see what this says?" or "I never did think pie was healthy, and here is an article about dyspepsia in this country," etc., or "Now, Ellen, you know the doctor said you must give up coffee, and just see what it says in this advertisement."

It is an innocent amusement, this lecturing on one's personal tricks and manners, but alas, how hard it is on poor creatures of habit!

The Mothers' Congress intends to distribute literature on the evils of Mormonism, but it is not thought that any of the mothers will go to Utah and make personal investigation of the evils.

Perhaps all these bogy rumors which are flying around about the Republican and Democratic possibilities were caused by the ghost walking somewhere.

Mr. Cleveland still prefers duck to crow as a diet.

That miniature volcano which is in operation at Louisville, Ky., is now said to be a case of Henry Watterson. But Mr. Watterson has never been successfully buried or suppressed.

The closing of the churches may perhaps awaken some of the good Chicago people who do not go to the theater to the fact that there ought to be building laws in that city.

The fact that the Cramps have two more battleship contracts does not indicate that our navy is cramped; quite the reverse.

It has not yet been settled whether every Heron organ will be supplied with a monkey.

Some one writes to the "New York Times" asking that unpremeditated sneezing as well as spitting be prohibited in street cars. If that individual knows any way to stop an unpremeditated sneeze he can make more of a fortune out of that than by agitation against germs.

Can it be possible that Mr. Hanna will not talk because, like the dog in the express car, he has "let his tag"?

FIRST AMERICAN SHOEMAKER.

It is said that the first American shoemaker was Thomas Beard, who came over on the Mayflower with "hides, both upper and bottom." The governor gave him lodging and diet and fifty acres of land. Some of his descendants are making shoes yet. But the "gentle craft" of St. Crispin is about wiped out. The lapstone, waxed thread, hog-bristle andawl of olden time have been replaced with the most wonderful machinery. There is a machine which sews the soles on 650 pairs of shoes in a day. There are enough of these machines in use to sew 290,000,000 pairs in a year. There are healing machines which press into a solid mass the leather heel and set the nails ready for driving. One man today does the work that twenty could not do by old methods.—New York Press.

## WHEEL OF FORTUNE.

Fortune has strange ways of avenging itself upon its favorites. In our own day we have seen kings dethroned and new powers set up. Voltaire drew a fearful picture of eight poverty-stricken men meeting in an obscure inn, each of whom proved to be a dethroned monarch. Such a thing has occurred in real life, in all but the meeting of the royal wanderers. Happily, there is a credit side to this black account. An instance not generally remembered may be cited. Chantrey, who, through his bequest, has left an almost world-famous name, was dining one day with Rogers, the banker-poet. "Who made this table for you?" he asked. "A common carpenter," replied Rogers. "Do you remember the making of it?" queried Chantrey. "Certainly," said Rogers, in surprise. "I was in the room while it was finished with the chisel, and gave the workman the directions about placing it." "Yes," said Chantrey. "You did. I remember the circumstances well. I was the carpenter."—St. James Gazette.

## Communications From Readers of The Times

Suggestions to Mr. Hepburn.

To the Editor of The Washington Times:

In reading the speech of Mr. Hepburn it occurred to me that modifications might be made in some of his suggestions touching the abolition or revision of the present civil service laws. It is apparent that there is always danger in placing the power of removal absolutely in the hands of one man, whether he be President, Senator or chief. He would then be in a position to remove anyone who might prove obnoxious to him, whether from personal spite, or for other reasons, and himself remain in office.

Would not this be a good suggestion? When a man has been appointed solely for his fitness to fill the position, upon a recommendation from his member of Congress, could not some provision be made whereby no one could remove this man from office except with the full knowledge of the one to whom he owed his appointment primarily, or until he had given an opportunity to defend himself before a jury of six men, three chosen by himself and three by the removing power, in order that no injustice be done.

The whole curse of the present system is removal at the will of some insignificant person who happens to be put in power through the favor of some one in higher authority and not through ability to fill his position.

If the civil service system is to be kept up, then I do not see why members of Congress should not be compelled to put their orders in writing, and to have a thousand dollars added to their salaries if they fail to do so. I am willing to wager that there are not more than ten members in the House or Senate who can parse a common sentence or a line from one of Eugene Ware's beautiful poems.

The whole thing is a farce on its face. JOHN LAWRENCE.

Washington, Jan. 16.

## Annays His Passengers.

To the Editor of The Washington Times:

Street car conductors are evidently instructed to ask those who tender money: "Do you want tickets," and do so as a matter of form in a courteous way, for most of them are courteous.

But occasionally, however, some ill-mannered fellow can be annoying, as happened yesterday, when a conductor, with official assurance three times repeated this question to me with an insolent manner no man with gentlemanly instincts could use to a gray-haired man who is as physically fit as a young man, and who has acted so with me, and I know of others he has annoyed in the same way. Most of the city conductors ask this question as a matter of form, and avoid annoyance, but this one is actually, in my opinion, the smallest man in the service, is persistent. The company cannot intend that their patrons shall be thus annoyed.

SUBSCRIBER.

Washington, Jan. 16.

## He Wants to Know.

To the Editor of The Washington Times:

Can you or will you, relieve an inquiring mind?

Oh, Uncle Sam, dearest old Sam, Will you please let me know Before winter ends, On which to depend, Groundhog or Weather Bureau?

S. S. L.

Washington, Jan. 16.

## The Proposed \$12 Pension.

To the Editor of The Washington Times:

The papers announce that a bill has been introduced or is to be introduced to pay all surviving Union soldiers in the war of the rebellion—when they attain the age of sixty-two years, the sum of \$12 per month without reference to the length of time they were in their country's service.

It seems to me about time to cease juggling with the pension problem. If a young man, at the age of eighteen or less, entered the service of his country when he ought to have been in college acquiring an education, and was paid \$12 a month in a currency worth fifty cents on the dollar, did he not make a sacrifice that should now receive some recognition? The man who remained at home and engaged in business enterprises had the opportunity, in safety and with ease, to accumulate a fortune. Why shall the soldier, whose losses by depreciated currency were never made good to him as they were to the fortunate lender of money to the Government, be compelled to wait until he is sixty-two years old, more than double the average age of the race, before he receives any sort of recognition for his services?

There has been too much of class legislation—the giving of exorbitant pensions to some favored beings, and none to others. If a \$12 pension is to be given to all unpensioned Union soldiers, let it take effect with the passage of the act, and not wait until the majority of them have died. That is manifestly what should have been done. Let there be no more juggling with the pension business.

J. FRAISE RICHARD.

Washington, Jan. 18.

## EUROPEAN CAPITALISTS AFTER TEXAS OIL

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan. 18.—J. D. Henry, editor of the "Petroleum World," of London, England, announces that a group of capitalists in London, Paris and other cities are planning to supply Great Britain and Europe with American oil.

Some of the capitalists are to form a \$50,000,000 company, acquire oil lands in Texas and copy the methods of the Standard Oil Company. Immigrants are to be carried on the passage out in tankships fitted for passengers, and take oil back.

## EDITOR CAN'T EAT TEN DOLLARS' WORTH

STROUDSBURG, Jan. 18.—Speaking of the proposed Republican dinner at Philadelphia to Senator Denison, and Philadelphia to Senator Denison, editor of the "Pike County Press," says: "The dinner rate is \$10. We can't eat that much, and are shy of the price if we could."

## VERMONT TO INVITE PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

President W. H. Buckham, of the University of Vermont, will come to Washington next week to invite the President to Burlington next June to the commencement exercises of the institution. This is the first time that a local alumni of this university will be held in Washington January 30. Mr. Buckham will attend.

## ALMOST METHUSELAH'S AGE.

NORRISTOWN, Jan. 18.—At the funeral of Benajah Bradford, at Trappe, there were eleven residents of Trappe in attendance, whose aggregate age was 199 years.

## BRYAN WILL COME EAST TO SEE JUDGE PARKER

Speculation on the Significance of This Meeting Between Nebraskan and New Yorker.

It is announced that Mr. Bryan is going to New York the last of this week, and that one of the incidents of his visit to Gotham which may be of far-reaching significance will be a meeting with Judge Alton B. Parker, a silent aspirant for the nomination of the forthcoming Democratic convention. The ostensible purpose of Mr. Bryan's visit to New York is to attend the banquet of the Holland Society. Judge Parker will be there, and while the dinner will be strictly a social affair, it is said that a conference between the Nebraskan and the New York jurist has been arranged.

What will the friends of Mr. Hearst say to this? Is a question which only Democrats but Republicans are asking one another. Although Mr. Bryan has announced that he is not advocating the candidacy of Judge Parker or any other particular individual, it is generally taken for granted that there is at least some understanding between Mr. Bryan and Mr. Hearst, for the reason that they represent much the same sort of politics, and from present indications they will be able to control at least one-third of the delegates to the next convention, and oblige any who may oppose them to make satisfactory terms before any man is named for the Presidency.

Mr. Bryan has heretofore given the intimation that he did not exactly approve the candidacy of Judge Parker, presumably because of the fact that Judge Parker has always been known as a Hill man, and the friendship which exists between the sage of "Wolfert's Roost" and the Nebraska leader is not exactly of the Damon and Pythias sort. Yet Bryan is going to New York, and will have a conference with Judge Parker.

## The Machen Trial.

Democrats in Congress are displaying unusual interest in the trial of August W. Machen and his co-defendants on the charge of conspiracy, and are carefully watching the proceedings from day to day. Many of them believe that good campaign material is being made for use this summer, and that the facts being brought to light will help along an issue which they expect to make prominent in the coming contest—that is the issue of official recklessness and carelessness which they contend in some instances amounts almost to criminal negligence. They declare there should be a clearing out of all the departments, not only the Postoffice Department, but other departments, where they believe much the same conditions prevail as in the branch presided over by Mr. Payne.

Democrats point to the fact that First Assistant Postmaster General Wynne admitted upon the stand that his office expended annually something like \$75,000,000, and that a large portion of it was paid out without knowledge on his part as to what it went for—that is, he signed what amounted to warrants upon the Treasury without knowing the character of the paper to which his signature was attached. For instance, the reply which Mr. Wynne made to a question by one of the attorneys for the defense is being made use of as capital by the Democrats with the knowledge that Mr. Wynne is an ardent Republican.

## Mr. Wynne's Statement.

Mr. Wynne said he had signed an order for 5,000 Groff fasteners, that he did not know a Groff fastener from a locomotive, and that if the order had read for the purchase of locomotives he would have signed it. This answer was of course given with characteristic frankness, and was intended to illustrate the fact that so much business

goes over his desk that he is unable to inquire into the merits of all the orders, and has to rely upon his subordinates to some extent. Nevertheless the Democrats are making much of this and other "developments" which they contend tend to show how careless the Republican Administration is in the expenditure of the people's money and they maintain that if such conditions exist in the Postoffice Department very likely they exist in other branches of the service, and, therefore, the way to retrenchment and reform is to "oust" the party in power.

This promises to make an effective argument on the stump, especially as there are recurring periods in politics when the voters think the issue of "turn the rascals out" is the proper one and then agreed to do so. At any rate, the Democrats are planning to make the most out of the Postoffice trials, and declare that already they have some good material.

## Judge Parker's Loyalty.

Some of the anti-Parker men are questioning Judge Parker's loyalty to the ticket in 1896. It is even said that he voted for Palmer and Buckner in that year, and further that he was part owner of a Long Island newspaper which bolted the regular ticket in that year and gave aid and support to the enemy, all of which is a most serious crime in the Bryan political decahy.

In answer Judge Parker's friends who have come to realize that if their favorite is to be nominated he must not have the antagonism of Bryan, are making emphatic denial, maintaining that the judge has always been regular and loyal. In support of this they produce correspondence of the following year when Parker was a candidate for the court of appeals bench and was elected, thus causing his name to be coupled with the Presidential nomination.

In this letter he did not say that he endorsed the platform, but he declared that he supported the Democratic ticket that year as on all previous years since entering the majority. The Bryan supporters, to ease whose minds this letter was written, must have accepted his statement as truth, for they turned in and Parker was elected; overturning the Republican majority of 255,000 of the year before, and winning himself by something like 5,000 majority. Now Mr. Bryan is coming to investigate for himself, it is said, and the question is: What does it mean? Does it mean that Mr. Bryan, if he finds that Parker was loyal in 1896, will accept Parker as the Democratic nominee? If so, that will be a big point scored for the New York jurist. Consequently, this visit of Mr. Bryan to New York may be of far-reaching importance.

## FILIPINOS ACCUSED OF MAKING CONSPIRACY

Detective Testifies About Plan to Form New Republic.

MANILA, Jan. 19.—Constabulary Detective Scarella, testifying in the case of Gomez, who is accused of conspiracy to overthrow the American government in the Philippines, swore that the conspirators, including the well known Generals Malvar, Luelan and Noriel, frequently conferred in the Manila Club as recently as September last.

At these conferences it was arranged that Dr. Gomez was to be elected president of the new republic. Next time the prosecution is investigating Scarella's tardy information.

## NOT SO GENEROUS.

Justice—If persons who saw two burly editors pursue Mr. Peewee down Double Fudge Street on Thursday last will send their names and addresses to the undersigned, they may stand a chance of being

ing called as witnesses in one of the greatest kidnapping cases of the country. The kidnapping of Mr. Peewee has been a great blow to me, as I am now compelled to perform in a two-ring circus, in both rings simultaneously. All I want is justice.

MISS MIXFOOT.

## OUR PERSONAL COLUMN.

AT THE ZOO.

Sallie—What a horrid snake! Is his bite fatal?

Arthur—Boa constrictors never bite. They squeeze.

Sallie—Oh, how lovely!

## THE FOOZLER.

"You young villain, if you laugh at me again I'll hit you over the head."

"Bet a nickel you wouldn't know which club to use."

GOOD NEWS.

"Is there no hope, doctor?"

"Oh, yes, indeed. Your mother-in-law will never regain the use of her voice."

